

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

July 25, 2013

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:02 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Richard Winn, Robert Norton, Jr.
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School - James Vincent
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette, Bill Trisler
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Thomas Murphy, Charles Stankye, Jr.

Guest: Danbury Fire School - T.J. Wiedl

No one was present representing the New Haven Fire Academy or the Stamford Regional Fire School.

Minutes of the June 27, 2013 meeting were distributed for review.

Charlie Stankye proposed a correction to the minutes that would include a section of a chronological report on the progress of the regional fire school project as follows:

On April 27, 2012 the State Bond Commission released \$800,000. These funds are requested to provide additional funds for the design/build architectural services for the Fire Training School construction projects at the Burrville (Torrington), Fairfield, Willimantic, Beacon Falls and Cheshire fire schools. After multiple requests by the staff at D.C.S. the Education Committee has refused to select a specific order for the build out of the remaining schools. Our stand has been that we want to advance all five schools. Our concern has been that if we select one school to build and any logistical issues arise that all progress on that project will halt. There is concern that D.C.S. will take too long to change plans and begin focusing their attention on another site.

This passage will be added to the June minutes.

Motion was made by Charlie Stankye, seconded by Rich Winn to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Rich Winn commented on the Position Paper compiled by this committee to express support of the continued progress on the regional school projects. Rich felt that the release of this paper was well timed and seemed to be well received by staff at the Department of Construction Services.

Burrville Fire School - A meeting was held on July 1 with Jeff from Tecton and Dave from DCS. Bob Norton reported that the meeting started at 1:00 p.m. and ran until after 5:00 p.m. and was very productive. There was input from Tecton about new school designs where flat screen T.V.s are placed in the proximity of a group of students rather than all displays being projected to a front mounted screen for a projection that all students would watch.

Dave and a DESPP attorney met last week with Fuss & O'Neill. Fuss & O'Neill will work up a remediation plan for September. The feeling was that an agreement between the DESPP and the Burrville directors should be

forthcoming. Dave said that the Gant Chart is very aggressive and several milestones may not be completed by the dates assigned. Rich offered that he and Dave and Jeff had a very open dialogue. Rich has not received any additional contact from the Architect or from the DCS project manager.

Hartford County School - It was reported that the state DCS has engaged an independent architect to act as a mediator. The sacrificial walls are cracking and moving .

The electrical contractor was on-site again this week working on lighting repairs.

Valley Chiefs' Regional Fire School - There has been no contact with the directors regarding this project.

Cheshire School site - There was no progress to report on the Cheshire location.

Fairfield Fire School - Chris Tracy reported that there should be one additional meeting with Tecton and the D.C.S. staff before the RFP is published. After that the selection process should begin. Chris is anticipating that construction will start on the project in March of 2014.

Bill Trisler gave a report on A.D.A. testing accommodations. Bill reported that documentation in the past has been difficult but he is attempting to follow guidelines in the regulations that require the request for accommodations to follow a prescribed format.

All requests for accommodations must come from the affected student. In most circumstances, plans developed by a high school have no standing. Bill further stated that the intent of a plan of accommodation was to level the playing field for the student. If accommodations include additional time for testing that time extension should only be granted to the subject student. The sooner that a student with a performance issue gets in touch with Bill to begin the process the more successful that the effort will be.

Jeff Morrisette reported that Charlie Stankye has already submitted the request for the first quarterly allotment of operational funding for the regional fire schools. Funds should be available in the first week of July.

Jeff also reported on Haz Mat grant funding. Any school that has delivered Haz Mat training prior to September 30 should make request for payment of up to 2,500 per school. There is a possibility of additional funding going forward. Jeff also pointed out that the signed MOU gives all of the statistics that are required to get the funding dispersed.

Chet Haber reported that Hartford County School has received a 1990 Rescue vehicle from New Britain Fire Department. Chet reported that Hartford already has a full hydraulic tool set with both Holmatro equipment and Hurst equipment that they will place on the vehicle.

The next meeting will be on August 22, 2013 at the Wethersfield Company #3.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:00 hours.

Submitted by Al Hawkins